

SANDSTONE HILLS
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION
PE 31-44

Land Resource Area Rio Grande Plains

Location _____

Date 1/1/72

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs on convex gently sloping to strongly sloping ridgetop areas. Slopes of 1 to 8 percent. Elevation 400 to 900 feet. Sandstone and ironstone outcrops occur.
2. SOILS
 - a. Strong fine sandy loam having about 35 percent by volume sandstone and ironstone cobble, stone and fragments over a stony sandy clay to a depth of 22 to 40 inches. This is underlaid with weakly cemented sandstone. Sandstone and ironstone outcrops on the surface. Soils are medium acid to strongly acid in subsoil. Available water storage is medium. Moderately slow permeability. Vegetation limited by water storage capacity, acidity and stony hard surface.
 - b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:
 - Nockers stony fine sandy loam
 - Goldfinch stony fine sandy loam
 - c. Specific Site Location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. The climax plant community on this site is a savannah of moderate size and stunted postoak and blackjack associated with open stands of mid and tall grasses. Grasses are spaced to utilize the limited moisture.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	<u>80%</u>	<u>Woody</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>Forbs</u>	<u>5%</u>
Littlebluestem	50	Postoak	15	Catclaw	3
Indiangrass	15	Blackjack	T	Sensitivebriar	
Purpletop		Catclaw		Yellow neptunia	
Sand lovegrass	T			Snoutbean sp.	2
Sideoats grama				aster	
Silver bluestem	5			Lespedeza spp.	2
Fringeleaf paspalum				Annuals	
Fall witchgrass	5				
Purple & Wrights					
threeawn	5				
Hooded windmillgrass					
Arizona cottontop	5				
Tanglehead					
Canada wildrye	T				
Annual grasses					

- b. As retrogression occurs, the surface soil gets hard and sheet erosion can occur as bare ground increases. The tall grasses decrease and annual threeawn increases along with Tumble windmill, red lovegrass, gummy lovegrass. Mesquite invades only slightly. Oak generally remains in a fairly open stand. In local situations low brush may invade.
- c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 1500 pounds per acre in poor years to 3500 pounds per acre of air-dry vegetation in good years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: Deer and turkey with limited use of the site by dove and quail and other birds.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a. <u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac/AU/Yearlong</u>
Excellent	76-100	12-16
Good	51-75	15-20
Fair	26-50	19-28
Poor	0-25	25+

b. <u>Introduced Species</u>	<u>Percent Ground Cover</u>			
	<u>100-76</u>	<u>75-51</u>	<u>50-26</u>	<u>25-0</u>
Introduced bluestem	10-14	14-18	17-25	25+

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. For Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Little bluestem	Fringeleaf paspalum	Other forbs
Indian grass	Fall witchgrass	Oak
Purpletop	Cottontop	Annual grasses
Sand lovegrass	Tanglehead	Annual forbs
	Aster	Low lovegrasses
	Yellow neptunia	Red grama

b. For Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Annual forbs	Oak mast & buds	Oak leaves
Snoutbean	Fringeleaf paspalum	Little bluestem
Lespedeza		Indiangrass
Sensitivebriar		
Aster		

c. Turkey

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Tender forbs & grasses	Oak mast	Woody plants
Grass seed such as paspalum	Catclaw seed	Coarse grass

1/ Definitions of terms and an explanation of interpretations is given on a separate page which is attached or submitted with each group of range site descriptions.